



*Office of the Mayor*

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## ***Mayor Smith and METRO meet with Federal Transit Administration***

While in Washington, D.C., Mayor Scott Smith and others met with Federal Transit Administration Chief Peter Rogoff to discuss the Central Mesa Light Rail Transit Extension through Mesa's downtown. City Manager Chris Brady, METRO CEO Rick Simonetta and METRO Director of Project Development Wulf Grote also attended the meeting.

The Central Mesa Light Rail Transit Extension is the first light rail project in the country to submit an application with the federal Small Starts program. Under the Small Starts program, the federal government provides up to \$75 million in funding for the project. The remainder of the projected \$230 million cost of the extension will be paid for with Proposition 400 funds, which were approved by voters in 2004.

"Mr. Rogoff was impressed with our plans for the extension and was very positive about our application," Mayor Smith said. "Participating in the Small Starts program accelerates the federal process and keeps our project moving forward."

The federal funding process depends on the size of the project. There are three levels of funding. New Starts projects cost more than \$250 million, Small Starts projects range from \$50 million to \$250 million and Very Small Starts are less than \$50 million. The 20 mile starter line qualified for, and was awarded, New Starts funding.

The FTA will review the application for 3-4 months to determine if the project is ready to move into development. METRO and the City expect approval in March.